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Czechoslovak Foreign Minister To Travel To Hungary

The official Czechoslovak news agency reported on 21 May that Foreign Minister Hajek will leave today for a three day visit to Budapest.

Hajek doubtless will lay the groundwork with the Hungarians for the forthcoming trip of Dubcek and Premier Cernik to Budapest. In particular, he will probably discuss the text of the Czechoslovak-Hungarian friendship and mutual assistance treaty, scheduled to be renewed when the Czechoslovak leaders arrive in mid-June.

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Yugoslav Defense Minister to Visit East Germany

A Yugoslav military delegation headed by Col. Gen. Nikola Ljubicic, State Secretary for National Defense, will pay an official friendship visit to East Germany at the end of this month. The visit ostensibly is in return for one paid by an East German military delegation to Yugoslavia in March 1967. This will be the second high level Yugoslav delegation to East Germany this month. Both visits seem designed to reassure the Ulbricht regime about Belgrade's public display of enthusiasm for Czechoslovakia's liberalization and the upcoming visit of West German Foreign Minister Brandt to Yugoslavia.

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Work on Federalization of Czechoslovakia Proceeding

Interim Czech and Slovak parliaments, with the power to draft only proposals for federalization of the state, have been recommended as the most practical approach to federalization by the constitutional commission of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences.

The commission also recommended passage of a constitutional amendment enabling such interim parliaments to be created, and to function as drafting bodies. The new federal constitution is expected to be ready in 1970, but federalization may take place earlier on the basis of constitutional amendments.

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The commission wants to ensure that the new document requires "respect for democratic procedure and a reliable, well thought out and thoroughly elaborated...introduction of economic reform...." New elections to the National Assembly should not be held until after the federal system has been introduced. Such elections are now scheduled for November but there have been unconfirmed reports that they may be put off until next year.

The South Moravian trade unions organization has endorsed a proposal made earlier by the region's party organization to the effect that Moravia-Silesia be granted autonomy similar to Slovakia's in any federated government. In a letter to Deputy Premier Husak, the organization noted that Moravia had had autonomous administration from the year 1182 until 1948, and urged the holding of a referendum in the area to determine popular wishes.

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Poles Preparing for Intensified Headcracking

The intra-party struggle may be temporarily dormant, but there are signs more heads will be knocked soon.

There are more rumors in Warsaw that the party plenum to be held before the end of June may result in some changes in the party leadership. Former Chief of State Ochab and Foreign Minister Rapacki may leave the politburo. Deputy Premier Szyr's politburo position reportedly is also shaky. Interior Minister and hardline leader Moczar is rumored as a likely candidate for some higher party position, although the situation is so unclear that other equally reliable pundits claim that Moczar is all but "finished."

On 21 May the Ministry of Health requested that the US Embassy in Warsaw facilitate receipt of a US export license for 100 pieces of six by six inch tantalum sheets from Union Carbide Corporation to be used in operations following concussions and skull fractures.

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Yugoslavs Push Preparatory Meeting for Nonaligned Conference

The Tito regime has suggested a meeting of representatives of those nations which attended the 1964 nonaligned conference to determine the agenda and invitation list for a new conference. The preparatory meeting may take place in Addis

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Ababa in June or July, after which the full scale conference probably will be held in New Delhi in February 1969.

Tito's main purpose in holding the conference is to rescue nonalignment from its current decline. The Yugoslavs have stressed the theme of nonalignment as a method by which small states can escape the pressures exerted by the superpowers.

At first, Tito apparently envisaged discussing the Vietnam war, the Middle East, and closer economic cooperation among the nonaligned. Lately, in an effort to secure broader backing from leaders publicly unwilling to discuss such delicate matters, he has proposed discussion of such broad topics as non-intervention and the elimination of force in settling international disputes.

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Polish Ambassadors in Political Trouble

The turmoil in the Polish diplomatic service is likely to affect three major ambassadorial posts in the West, according to the French ambassador in Warsaw.

He believes that ambassadors Morawski in London, Lobodycz in Oslo, and Michalowski in Washington will soon be on their way out. Although Morawski had been reinstated recently in his post--probably as a result of Gomulka's personal intervention--after party activists had ousted him, the word now is that all three of the pro-Western moderates would soon be recalled as part of a "compromise" worked out with the Foreign Ministry hardliners.

All three men, especially Michalowski, are Foreign Minister Rapacki's proteges. They will not last long if Rapacki himself loses his post, which is probably only a matter of time. He reportedly resigned as long ago as 4 April--Deputy Foreign Minister Winiewicz has been acting for him since then--but Gomulka has been waiting for an opportune time to accept the resignation. Rapacki reportedly has been seen driving around Warsaw in recent days, tending to confirm indications that his absence from the ministry is caused by political and not physical illness as had been claimed by the regime.

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Private Factory to Open in Yugoslavia

One of the rare Yugoslav enterprises financed by domestic private capital--a worsted fabric mill--is scheduled to begin production in late May.

It will be a private factory employing 120 persons under the full self management of the workers. The only difference between this and other Yugoslav factories is that it will pay interest to private investors (instead of banks), who have put up two million new dinars for the project. The factory is located in Slavonski Orahovica, a town of 19,000 persons which is without industry and in need of 2,000 jobs.

Private capital is very useful to the sagging Yugoslav economy and has already been employed in such enterprises as trucking, catering and agriculture. This is the first known transfusion of private capital into the textile industry.

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